

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 011956

NODIS

FOLLOWING USUN 0152 SENT ACTION SECSTATE JAN 17; REPEATED TO
YOU QUOTE

S E C R E T USUN 0152

NODIS

DEPT PASS EMBASSY CAIRO

FROM MOYNIHAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, XF, EG

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN QUERY ABOUT WHAT US COULD ACCEPT IN A
SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION

REF: A. STATE 11215 B. USUN 121

1. AMBASSADOR SHERER MET WITH AMBASSADOR AHMED THIS MORNING
TO CONVEY DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO EGYPTIAN DELEGATION'S QUERY
OF THE KIND OF RESOLUTION US COULD ACCEPT. AHMED LISTENED
CAREFULLY AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR WASHINGTON'S DETAILED
AND THOUGHTFUL REPLY. HE THEN MADE FOUR POINTS:

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A. WHILE EGYPT WOULD NOT OBJECT TO AN ADJOURNMENT, SYRIA AND THE PLO WOULD REGARD IT AS A DEFEAT. THEY WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY PRESS A RESOLUTION TO A VOTE--IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN TO EMBARRASS THE US.

B. NO ONE, INCLUDING THE WEST EUROPEANS, BELIEVES THE US CONTENTION THAT ISRAEL WOULD REJECT THE GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS IF THE POLITICAL RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIANS WERE MENTIONED IN A RESOLUTION. THE ISRAELI DELEGATION HAS ITSELF UNDERMINED THE CREDIBILITY OF THIS ARGUMENT, HE SAID, BY LETTING IT BE KNOWN IN CORRIDORS THAT ISRAEL RECOGNIZES THE PALESTINIANS HAVE POLITICAL RIGHTS. THE SWEDES HAVE CONCLUDED FROM THIS THAT ISRAEL COULD ACCEPT "RIGHTS" LANGUAGE ALONG THE LINES PUT FORWARD BY THE BRITISH: WHICH IS A BIT FAR FETCHED. (WE WILL TRY TO FIND OUT DISCREETLY FROM SWEDISH DEL WHAT WAS ACTUALLY SAID. WE WOULD NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT SWEDISH DEL IS PRONE TO WISHFUL EXAGGERATION.)

C. IN AHMED'S VIEW, THE BEST OUTCOME FOR THE US WOULD BE A STRONG RESOLUTION THAT WOULD DRAW SEVERAL VETOES AND ABSTENTIONS, FOLLOWED BY A MODERATE DRAFT ON WHICH THE US COULD ABSTAIN. THIS MIGHT BE PUT FORWARD BY "SOME US FRIENDS." ITS ELEMENTS MIGHT BE: (1) RESTATEMENT OF ILLEGALITY OF ACQUISITION OF TERRITORY BY FORCE, COUPLED WITH AFFIRMATION OF RIGHT OF EVERY STATE IN THE AREA TO LIVE IN PEACE WITHIN SECURE BOUNDARIES, (2) RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHTS OF ALL PARTIES, INCLUDING THE PALESTINIANS, AND (3) URGING RECONVENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE.

D. FINALLY, AHMED STRONGLY URGED THE US TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH THE PLO DURING THE DEBATE. A CLEAR, FRIENDLY STATEMENT OF THE US POSITION, SUCH AS HE HAD JUST HEARD, WOULD GO FAR TO PERSUADE THE PLO THAT THE US CARED ABOUT THE INTERESTS OF THE ARABS AS WELL AS THOSE OF ISRAEL. AHMED OFFERED TO SET UP SUCH A MEETING AT THE EGYPTIAN MISSION. MOYNIHAN UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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